THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

For the last several years the number of migrant Canada Geese wintering in Maryland has increased dramatically, not to mention the number of resident geese. A drive on the Eastern Shore finds geese in fields scattered throughout, and in many cases in large numbers. A drive on certain portions of the Western Shore has the same results. The number of migrant Canada Geese has increased to the point that for the first time since 1995, a limited hunting season was allowed in Maryland.

In the mid 1970s there were as many as one million Canada Geese wintering in our state, but by the late 1980s the number of migrant Canada Geese had fallen. There were several factors that contributed to this decline. The two main factors were too much hunting pressure on the wintering population and poor reproduction on the breeding grounds. One theory for this decline that was disproved with the help of birders was that our wintering geese were "short-stopping" in states further north and not coming to Maryland for the winter. Through an intensive banding operation, including the use of neck bands which could be read with binoculars, we learned that more than 90 percent of the geese marked in Maryland returned here and no where else. Thus, the solution to our goose shortage was to address the situation on the wintering and breeding grounds.

In 1986, DNR reduced the hunting season from 90 days to 70 days even though the rest of the Atlantic flyway states were allowed 90-day seasons by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1988, DNR took another step in reducing hunting pressure by reducing the daily bag limit (i.e., the number of geese allowed to be taken per hunter) from 3 to 1 during the first two weeks of the hunting season, followed by a daily bag limit of 2. The other flyway states were still shooting 3 geese per day. In 1995, the season was closed completely for migrant Canada geese.

The season closure was supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a result of surveys conducted on the breeding grounds in northern Quebec on the Ungava Peninsula. Starting in 1993, waterfowl biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DNR, and other state wildlife agencies started monitoring the breeding population on the Ungava Peninsula. The population that first year was 91,000 breeding pairs. By 1995, that number declined to 29,000 pairs. During that time period conditions on the breeding

(continued on page 3, column 1)

Maryland's Next Ten Species

by Marshall Iliff

The desire to find a first state record is perhaps the most serious affliction affecting those of us that describe ourselves as birders. And fortunately for those of us living in Maryland, there is still a wealth of opportunities for new discoveries in our small state, whose state list currently totals a mere 417 species, more than 20 species behind neighboring states such as Virginia, New Jersey, and New York. First state records have continued to come at an average rate of one or two per year throughout the 1990s, with two accepted additions since 1999:

Pacific Loon - accepted record 12-28 Nov 1999 (photos) at Conowingo Pond, Harford/Cecil Cos. Another record 15-25 May 2001 at Ocean City Inlet is pending review and one at Romancoke, Queen Anne's Co., 28 Nov 1999 has not been submitted to the MD/DCRC.

White-faced Ibis - accepted record 2-14 May 1999 (photos) at E.A. Vaughn WMA, Worcester Co. Another record 25-27 May 2000 is pending and another report from 28 May 2000 has not been submitted to the MD/DCRC.

When Norm Saunders first wrote to me and others, and asked us to put together a list of the top ten next birds for the state of Maryland, I thought "no problem." I think about this list every time I'm afield. I sat down, wrote up the list, and was done with it. Easy as cake. The thing is, the Maryland list is lacking so many obvious potential first state records that there are about 40 choices that are equally valid and defensible. I did, in part, feel that the exercise was almost no fun, because the top five (or at least the top three) slots at least were such obvious "no brainers" that there was little opportunity for creativity to leak in.

Shortly after I composed my list, I spoke with Rick Blom about the choices he had made. He agreed with my sentiment that the top three were almost "no brainers" and that perhaps we should have been asked what species we would pick after Eurasian Collared-Dove, Shiny Cowbird, and Cave Swallow. Amazingly, aside from the first two just mentioned, three species in his top five didn't

(continued on page 6)

Chapter Chatter

by Martha Waugh

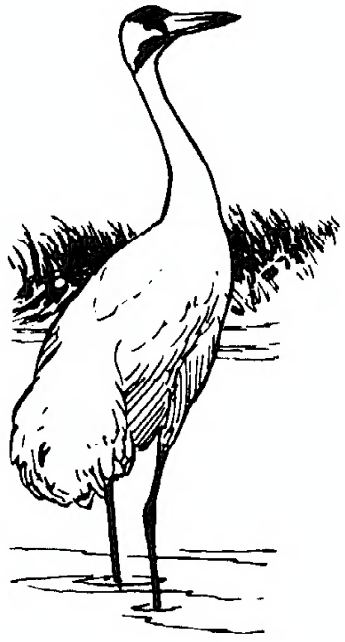
Anne Arundel Member Reaches 700 Not Just Once But Twice—Leo Weigant had been steadily working on his life list as it inched toward 700, bemused by the highly colorful birds he was finding. Yellow-faced Grassquit, Green-breasted Mango, Red-billed Tropic Bird, and a Blue Mockingbird (later disallowed by the California state committee) - - life was an ornithological rainbow. When it came down to the last bird needed to finish 700 on his life list, though, it was a very gray Crissal Thrasher that made him shout last January. This bird was doubly satisfying because it'd been a nemesis bird for many years: "I had heard 'Oh, it was here 10 minutes ago' from California to Texas, so this one near Elfrida, Arizona was a great thrill." Needing two more to mark 700 on his "Lower 48" list, Leo managed a gray-on-gray Nutting's Flycatcher in LA and then a dark and light-gray patterned Fork-tailed Storm-petrel off Westport, Washington in August to finish his second 700. Not surprisingly, his next target bird will most likely be a flamingo in the Everglades, just to get out of his "gray" mood.

Allegany Member Honored—Gladys Faherty, president of the Allegany Chapter in 1997 and 1998, has been awarded the Frostburg State University (FSU) Alumni Association's Alumni Service to Alma Mater award. The local paper, The Republican, reports that this award is the alumni association's most prestigious. It "is based on exceptional contributions in assisting, advancing and promoting FSU; consistent

(continued on page 3, column 2)

Contents

DNR Reports 1
The Next 10 1
Chapter Chatter 1
The President's Letter 2
Sanctuary News 2
Atlas News 4
Conservation Connection 5
MOS Calendar, Jan/Feb 11
C&O Canal Midwinter Count 15
Scholarship Notes 15
Nominations Committee 15



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Copy deadlines for the March/April issue are:

March-April Calendar Activities:
January 25

All Other Submissions:
February 1

Birdlife Needs Your Help

by Karen Morley

It isn't the fault of the postal service that you're still receiving issues of *Maryland Birdlife* from the last century.

This quarterly publication is MOS's journal of record. It contains seasonal reports, accounts of unusual bird sightings, annual reports from chapters and committees, and other material of interest. Members who look forward to reading *Birdlife* are justifiably unhappy about the long delays and irregular intervals between issues.

Why is *Maryland Birdlife* so far behind its publishing schedule? The main reason is that the seasonal reports take a very long time to prepare. Thousands of reports from many sources are sorted, studied, and analyzed for significance—unusual species, dates, locations, or numbers of birds—and then summarized in a concise and useful narrative.

In the past five years, the number of raw reports has skyrocketed as more people use electronic methods (Maryland Osprey postings, e-mail messages, etc.) to submit their observations. The good news: more data. The bad news: much more time needed to sort reports by families and species, select records for individual mention, and write a comprehensive summary.

The editors of *Maryland Birdlife* are working on a plan to shorten the delays and get the publication back on track. One proposal is to enable birders to enter information directly into an electronic database using a simple form on the MOS website. Because we want to design a solution that's as user-friendly as possible, I encourage all of you "regular reporters" to send your comments and suggestions to Bob Ringler (ringler@qis.net) or Janet Millenson (janet@twocrows.com). The widespread use of computers has been part of the problem, but it can also be part of the solution.

Another way you can help is by submitting your observations to Bob Ringler within one month of the end of each season (see below). The ultimate goal is to have *Birdlife* reach you "on time." In other words, you'll be reading the seasonal report for the current year by the start of the same season the following year. With your support, *Birdlife* can become a true quarterly again.

Seasonal observations for:	Due by end of:
Winter (December–February)	March
Spring Migration (March–May)	June
Breeding Season (June–July)	August
Fall Migration (August–November)	December

Sanctuary Committee

by Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Chair

Strategic Planning process for the Sanctuary Committee

When taking office, Karen Morley asked each committee in MOS to do an evaluation of their work — to list strengths & weaknesses, make recommendations as how to improve, develop a mission statement and make a two - five year plan to anticipate budget requests.

I welcomed this process as I have long felt that the structure of the Sanctuary Committee makes it an unwieldy group and almost impossible to work as a committee should. After a couple of preliminary meetings a Strategic Planning Committee was formed for the Sanctuary Committee evaluation process. This committee is made up of myself, Brent Byers, Doug Parker, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Rineer, Janet Sheilds and Karen Morley (ex-official). In November 2001 Paul Bystrak, who has recently returned to Maryland, was added to this committee.

On June 24, 2001 the committee met at my house and we came up with a preliminary draft of a Mission Statement and lists of strengths and weaknesses. We also set goals to help make the Sanctuary Committee a more functional committee. On August 26, 2001 we again met at my house to go over the management plans that were submitted by the Partners In Flight. On September 30, 2001 we met at Greenbriar State Park with members of the Allegeny Chapter to go over the management proposals for Carey Run Sanctuary. One of the recommendations in this plan is to have a survey done of the property at Carey Run since there are three areas of the property where the boundary line is uncertain. Bob Rineer has contacted a surveyor who is doing this work.

Janet Sheilds has taken on the responsibility to get the revised guide to the sanctuaries completed and ready for publication. Hopefully this guide will also be put on the MOS website.

I have found this process very stimulating. This strategic committee is not just evaluating — they are taking on responsibilities and acting like a real sanctuary committee. Long live the process!!

(continued on bottom of page 5)

DNR Reports . . .

(continued form page 1, column 1)

grounds were not ideal either, with ice and snow cover persisting into the nesting season. As a result, production of young geese was poor.

Since 1993, monitoring on the breeding grounds has continued. An intensive nesting study is also being conducted to identify the factors influencing gosling production. Banding of breeding birds is part of this effort. This will help provide a reliable measure of mortality, including that from hunting. Satellite radio telemetry has been used to unravel the puzzles about migration timing and breeding ground and wintering area affiliations.

In 1997, following several years of poor gosling production, Mother Nature lent a helping hand. With a gradual increase in breeding geese due to the hunting season closure, the migrant population experienced a good nesting season. This was followed by two additional years of good reproduction. Within 6 years, the breeding pairs increased from 46,000 in 1996 to 146,000 in 2001. This past breeding season, nesting success was high with 85 percent of all nests producing young.

As a result of all this, the fall flight of Canada Geese in the Atlantic flyway was back to one million birds. With reproduction back to normal levels and the migrant population near historic levels, it was time to reopen the hunting season. DNR chose a conservative approach for this first season of migrant Canada Goose hunting. The season was only 30 days long, with a daily bag limit of one goose. As long as the migrant population levels stay high, we anticipate continuing goose hunting at a level that sustains the population and does not contribute to the declines that were experienced nearly twenty years ago.

With this new strategy, hunters and birdwatchers alike can enjoy the sights and sounds of migrant Canada Geese returning to the Chesapeake Bay area each autumn.

CHAPTER CHATTER

(continued from page 1, column 3)

involvement with the alma mater; demonstrated success in encouraging other FSU alumni to take an active role in their alma mater; and attainment of special achievements, awards, honors, and distinctions. FSU president, Dr. Catherine Gira, Student and Education Services vice president, Dr. Alice Manicur, and director of Alumni Programs, Colleen Peterson, presented the award during the November homecoming luncheon. Gladys is a native of Garrett County and a graduate of FSU's class of 1955. She has achieved recognition as a physical education teacher, librarian, media specialist, and classroom volunteer. Chapter members especially appreciate her dedication to birding and to chapter activities.

Montgomery Chapter Publishes Site Guide—*A Birder's Guide to Montgomery County, Maryland* contains detailed descriptions and maps for some 35 sites around the county, plus 250 individual species accounts and a month-by-month calendar of bird activity. The guide is beautifully illustrated by noted bird artist Michael O'Brien (a chapter member before he decamped to Cape May). Linda Friedlander was editor-in-chief and Rick Sussman was the chair of this project. The Birder's Guide is designed to tell you where to bird, how to get there, when it's best to visit, and what species to look for. The list price is $16 with free shipping and handling for MOS members when ordered from the Chapter treasurer Howard Lefkowitz at 301-649-3373 or wa3vez@home.com/. Checks can be mailed to Howard at 11508 Colt Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20902. A discount is available for ten or more copies.

Harford Chapter Honors Members—About 40 members attended the annual summer social at the Anita Leight Estuary Center. Carol Flora, chapter president, presented the annual Harford Bird Club awards. Birders of the Year were Hammond and Thirza Brandt for their consistent reporting of interesting birds. Bird of the Year was the Rough-legged Hawk seen at BGE's Perryman Woods. Mr. John Strawbridge of BGE was present to accept the award. Rookie of the Year went to Dana Burrough for her enthusiasm. Volunteers of the Year included Rick Cheicante, Lorna Wortman, and John and Linda Ireland.

Cecil Couple On Safari—Ken and Kim Drier maintain that being in Yellowstone National Park is the next closest thing to being on a safari in the African Serengeti. Ken says, "Yellowstone has it all: great scenery, geyser basins, a grand canyon, big game, and of course, birds. Ken and Kim spent a week there in July hiking and camping. They found several gigantic Elk with tremendous racks, Grizzly Bear (Kim, watching one through a scope admired his "fluffy ears."), Black Bear, bison. Gray Wolves, Big Horned Sheep, and a "big beautiful wolf." Ken recommends *Birds of Yellowstone* by Terry McEneaney and the November issue of National Geographic Travel. He and Kim enjoyed seeing Western Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, Kestrel, Grey Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Brewer's and Yellow-headed Blackbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Harrier, Townsend's Solitaire, and Northern-Pygmy Owl. At Hayden Valley, they spotted a rare Clark's Grebe. He and another birder filled out rare bird sighting reports as less than 20 have ever been recorded in the park.

They saw at least 50 Wilson's Phalaropes feeding in a small pond. Ken found a North American first, a Cinnamon Teal, and two more lifers, Lark and Sage Sparrows. "We were tired but satisfied with our adventure and time in this national treasure."

Tri-County Member Exhibits Photography—Tri-County member Dave Ganoe has expanded his photography shows to Massachusetts. Presently he is exhibiting at the Tsongas Gallery in Walden Pond, Concord. The show consists of color prints of fall nature scenes accompanied by appropriate quotations from the works of Henry David Thoreau. The exhibit runs through December 2001. This fall, Dave has been photographing at Deal Island and Tri-County members are hoping to see his work exhibited locally in the near future.

Washington Chapter Member's Eagle Observations Published—Frank Warfield, a member our Washington chapter, had an article published in the Clearwater (FL) Audubon Society's newsletter, *Wing Beat*, which detailed the account of his observations over the past fifteen years of a pair of eagles that continue to nest near Frank's winter home in Florida. The pair of eagles have had to change trees several times over the fifteen years, but Frank has always been able to locate them and has been able to monitor them from a seat in front of his Florida home.

Anne Arundel Member Leads MOSers to Costa Rica—Peter Hanan, of the Ann Arundel Chapter, led a trip to Costa Rica in February 2001 for Jean Wheeler, Paul Speyser, Kim Hudyma, Kathleen Neugbauer, Roberta Reichwein, Steve Hult, Mary Lou McCutcheon, and Jean's friend Marilyn, a group self-described as "Maniacs." Peter cites the many advantages of Costa Rica as great birds, a stable and democratic government, a 90% literacy rate, large middle class, friendly people, fresh and good food, drinkable water, and a modern medical system. The medical system was put to the test as Steve took a fall and damaged his arm seriously. He ended up birding on, but with a cast on the arm. Paul was the next potential casualty, but he survived a fall in fair shape. The group went to Rancho Naturlista, a mid-level elevation of 3,000 ft. for their first stop and some logged in 25 life birds before breakfast. After a few pleasant birding days there, they went high in the mountains to the Sevegre Lodge where they found a group of Resplendent Quetzal and a Bat Falcon. They went from this cool outpost to the hot Tarcol Lodge area on the Pacific coast. Peter shared his accommodations with a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and saw the "smallest woodpecker I had ever seen," the tiny Olivaceous Piculet. They stopped in the small town of Orotina to see Black and White Owl in the town square and were escorted to the site by the helpful local ice shaver. Black and White Owls are bat eaters. They sit on the church and as bats fly out in the evening, they grab one or two for dinner.

MOS Members Attend the American Birding Association Regional Conference—Mike Bowen sent in the following report on the American Birding Association (ABA) Regional Conference: "Four members of the Montgomery

(continued on page 14, column 1)

Second Statewide Atlas Begins

by Joanne Solem

On January 1, 2002, the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other conservation groups, begins its second five-year Breeding Bird Atlas Project. This project will map in detail the distribution of bird species in Maryland and the District of Columbia (DC), primarily with volunteer help. This is one of the Society's most important activities with immense long-term value.

For purposes of this project, Maryland and DC are divided into 239 quadrangles based on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. Each "quad" is divided into sixths, which are called "blocks"; in some counties they are further divided into quarter-blocks. Blocks are assigned to field observers. Covering a block for five years searching for evidence of breeding is an unparalleled opportunity to learn many aspects of the nesting cycle firsthand. Without question, extensive time in the field will produce treasured memories.

Although field observers are needed in all parts of the state and DC, every MOS member can and should contribute sightings, even if he or she never leaves his neighborhood or is a relatively inexperienced birder. A sample of possible sightings which could be seen in almost any suburban or rural yard might include a begging fledgling American Robin following an adult, Northern Cardinals feeding young in a nest in a shrub, Barn Swallows attaching their mud nest to a beam in a carport, a House Finch incubating eggs in a hanging potted plant, Carolina Wrens making repeated trips with nesting material to a half-empty cardboard box under a deck, or a House Sparrow carrying nesting material into a vent. Whenever you observe breeding activity outside your assigned area, pass such information to the local County Coordinator with date, exact street location, and your name. (A complete list of County Coordinators is included on this page.)

Another way any MOS member can contribute to the Atlas Project is by granting land permission for field observers to survey tracts of land you own, or by obtaining land permission from people you know or groups to which you belong. Atlasing requires finding breeding birds in all habitats in a block. A few blocks contain ample public land. Many do not. For that reason, access to privately-owned land in any block can range from helpful to essential. Because trespassing on private property is not only illegal but violates the American Birding Association's Code of Ethics, the cooperation of many people will be needed to help provide controlled access. Advise the local County Coordinator if you can help with land permission.

The Atlas Committee plans to provide a page of information in most issues of *The Yellowthroat* during the five years of the project. Your contributions to this page are welcome. Especially valuable would be articles (maximum 1000 words) or short suggestions as to how to confirm certain species. *Atlasing is not a glorified nest search project.* The Atlas Committee discourages activity which involves repeated trips to a nest or harassing a bird in a nest search. Many people have evolved useful methods to track down breeding species—whether or not a nest is ever found. Share these ideas. Forward observations, tips, and experiences to Jo Solem, at odenata@msn.com or 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723.

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Check for corrections at the MOS web site:
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Conservation News & Notes

by Maureen F. Harvey

The Conservation Connection

President Bush Signs into Law $80 Million for State Wildlife Programs with Fiscal Year 2002 Interior Appropriations — An $80 million state wildlife grants program was signed into law by President Bush on November 6, 2001. The funding is part of the fiscal year 2002 Department of Interior and Related Agencies appropriations that passed the U.S. Congress the week of October 15, 2001. As they did last year with the fiscal year 2001 Department of Interior and Commerce, Justice, and State (CJS) Departments Appropriations Act, Congress is again providing the states with grants for wildlife conservation.

The Interior appropriation act complements the 2001 appropriations that established the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) as part of the CJS appropriations. Like the WCRP, this new program will provide funds to all 50 states, U.S. Territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, through a formula based on land area and population. Funding is provided for species with the greatest conservation need, as determined by the states. The actual State-by-State allocation is dependent upon the distribution formula as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. The estimate of the amount available to Maryland is $2,808,704.

Again, this isn't the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) which would guaranteed long-term funding, but it is an answer to the pressure from conservation groups in every state that support CARA and/or the original Teaming with Wildlife concept of providing permanent funding via a user tax.

Congress has an opportunity to vastly improve their aid to the states with either CARA or the American Wildlife Enhancement Act of 2001 (S. 990). CARA proposes to reinvest $3.1 billion, a portion of the revenues from federal offshore oil and gas, into a variety of conservation and recreation programs including $350 million for state-based wildlife conservation. The American Wildlife Enhancement Act authorizes $350 million for state wildlife conservation and related recreation and education as well as several other wildlife conservation programs.

Douglas Point Preserved! — The State of Maryland and Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will purchase Douglas Point on Dec. 15, 2001. Governor Glendening announced that Maryland has successfully negotiated the purchase of this 1,271 acre tract along the Potomac River in Charles County from PEPCO. This is the property that Maryland Rock Industries was planning to purchase, de-forest, and mine for gravel. After a public hearing brought objections from many residents and environmental groups (including MOS), the county commissioners rejected the permit request by the rock and gravel company to mine this property.

Deanna Wheeler of the Friends of Nanjemoy said, "Celebrate!…It was an amazing group effort over the past 1.5 years. Thank you everyone for sharing your time, talents, and support. We made a difference." She also noted, "343 acres of Douglas Point remains in the hands of the Maryland Rock Industries. We will keep an eye on those acres."

The BLM's share of approximately 600 acres will be acquired using $3 million derived from Land and Water Conservation Funds. This funding came from the federal land acquisition side of the 2001 CJS Appropriations Act mentioned in the preceding article. The BLM envisions the land will eventually be used for low impact recreation, sightseeing, and nature tourism, which are some of the uses suggested in MOS' letter to the Charles Co. Board of Commissioners.

This acquisition lies in the center of a proposed 5,500 acre wildlife preserve in Charles County. The preserve would protect the Potomac River and provide connections between other wildlife habitats like Doncaster State Forest and Purse State Park. It is a great addition to the Green Infrastructure plan for Maryland. Negotiations for additional land are underway.

Strip Mining Proposed for FSU Campus — Frostburg's Mayor, John Bambacus, has alerted the Maryland Conservation Council about proposed strip mining of a 60 acre wooded plot on the Frostburg State University (FSU) campus immediately behind the new Appalachian Laboratory and near a residential community. He hopes that environmental groups will make their views on the proposal known to the public (e.g., via letters to newspapers), FSU's President, and the Allegheny County Bureau of Public Works.

Strip mining this site would mean 2 years of vibration and noise from blasting, dust, truck traffic, and loss of property values at least for the duration. It would result in loss of woodland habitat and the underlying aquifer. Deforestation of the land will impact the headwaters of Georges Creek, an area prone to flooding. Potential effects on a nearby industrial park need to be assessed. Previous underground mining of the entire area has created unexpected subsidence and on occasion difficulties with methane seepage.

FSU favors the mining because it would provide "free" preparation of the land for campus development. Since the area is undermined, strip mining would remove and obliterate the underground mines. In addition, the operator has promised to give the University another 60 acres, and FSU will get royalties. Mining would mean millions of dollars to the operator, thousands to the University, and 2 years' employment to a few heavy equipment operators and truck drivers.

Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. Letters may be addressed to:

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SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

(continued from page 2, column 3)

Workday at Irish Grove

A successful workday/weekend was held at Irish Grove on October 27-28, 2001. Among the many things done were new siding put up on the exposed portions of the tool shed and a chain saw party going around the fields edges clearing low branches and larger shrubs. The weather was on the cool side and very windy, but it stayed dry. As usual there was a good mid-day meal provided for the workers. Several of the participants made the workday a long weekend — coming down one or two days before and staying one or two days after. This broadens the experience at Irish Grove and give much more time for birding and exploring the area.

Spring Workdays

The dates for the workdays in April are: Irish Grove — April 6, 2002 and Carey Run — April 27, 2002.

The Next 10 (cont.)

even make my list. His number three, Western Meadowlark, was an oversight on my part, since I think that is undeniably one of the top choices, but as I looked at my list and his list, and thought about the possibilities, I began to feel that every one of my choices was almost as defensible. Thus, the 38 panel selections listed below amount to an interesting amalgam of potential first state records and hopefully should serve to provide a basis for study and careful observation every time any of us go afield.

Undoubtedly the single most important factor in each reviewer's list was how the reviewer juggled the question of detectability. We are all fully aware that many more rarities occur in the state than birders can or will ever find. Thus, the obvious question becomes whether our list is formed based on what we *should* find or what we *will* find. Rick and I both acknowledged, as did some other reviewers, that if the list was based solely on the latter (what we *will* find) our lists would be almost totally filled with hummingbirds, since birders are becoming ever better trained to pay attention to late season hummingbirds and document them thoroughly.

Norm asked a panel of 15 active Maryland birders to select their top ten choices, using whatever methodology they chose. The 15-member panel consisted of: Eirik Blom, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Rob Hilton, Marshall J. Iliff, George M. Jett, Gail Mackiernan, Dave Mozurkewich, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Paul Pisano, Robert F. Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, James L. Stasz, and Hal L. Wierenga. The total number of selections for each species was tabulated with one point per vote. Some people ranked their list and some did not, and some provided reasoning for their selections, while others simply provided the list without comment. Several people provided Runners Up lists, but these were not used at all in the analysis provided below. Some reviewers commented extensively on their process for selection, which ranged from 5-minute brainstorms to detailed systems of literature review and point scoring. Phil Davis scored species with differing point systems based on records from surrounding states but limited his review to species mentioned in Halliwell ("What's Next in New Jersey – Birds Recorded Within 200 Miles of New Jersey But Not Yet in the State", Volume XXVI, number 2, *Record of New Jersey Birds*, Summer, 2000), which reviewed species which have occurred within 200 miles of NJ, but not yet in NJ. Phil's list of predictions differed significantly from most other lists, since he eliminated from consideration all species which had occurred in NJ (e.g., Eurasian Collared-Dove, Cave Swallow, Western Meadowlark). Rick Blom stated that he picked species based primarily on likelihood of occurrence, not likelihood of detection. Thus species such as Western Meadowlark (#2), Bell's Vireo (#5), and Sprague's Pipit (#6), all of which are difficult to detect by birders either due to ID problems or secretive habits, ranked quite high on his list. Jett tried to select no two species from the same order and considered the habits of the bird and the ease of obtaining documentary photographs, effectively eliminating vagrant swallows and swifts from consideration on his list. Gene Scarpulla selected eleven species, but three were already on the state list, so he only got eight votes *[ed. note: Gene's confusion was eventually sorted out but his additional choices did not affect the number or rankings of the listings discussed below.]*

Below I summarize the 38 species selected with some commentary on their status as a vagrant in the East, records from surrounding states, seasonal and geographic patterns of occurrence, and tips on where or when to expect them in Maryland. In compiling my comments I drew extensively on a database of East Coast rarities that I have been compiling with George L. Armistead and which has been created through an exhaustive review of regional bird books and periodicals. I do not provide literature citations for each record below, but nearly all have been published either in the relevant issue of *American Birds*, *Field Notes*, or *North American Birds*. For each of the top ten I go out on a limb and predict [in brackets] the month and location for Maryland's first record.

The Top Ten

1) Eurasian Collared-Dove – 13 votes - ***[August, Hurlock, Dorchester Co.]*** — I hope Rick Blom won't mind me quoting him: "Anyone who does not have this as number one should have their list ceremonially burned." Paul Pisano went so far as to assume that it would be found before this article was published, and ranked it as #11 accordingly! Obviously he gives Maryland birders more credit than we deserve! Omitted from only 2 lists and the top pick for everyone who ranked their list in order of likelihood, this species is known from almost all surrounding states and is spreading like a mushroom cloud. Delaware records in Selbyville, Sussex Co., in fall 1998 and fall 2001 were within 1 mile of the Maryland state line. About 4 records now from VA, 3 records from DE, 4+ in NJ, 3+ in PA, and others in NY, CT, and MA. Look for this species to appear at feeder stations or farmyards anywhere in the state. In the Midwest, the species has seemed to preferentially colonize small towns with grain elevators (in Maryland check Hurlock, Queen Anne, and Whaleysville). Ceremonial burning of the lists of Phil and Paul to be performed at Cylburn Mansion at midnight of the day when Maryland's first one appears at one of their feeders. All M.O.S. members are invited to attend (B.Y.O. lighter fluid). Rick Blom will preside as Master of Ceremonies.

2) Cave Swallow – 11 votes – ***[November, West Ocean City Pond, Worcester Co.]*** — A Maryland report from North Beach, Calvert Co., 20 May 1996 was well-documented but did not gain acceptance in a split vote. Cave Swallows have been found annually since 1992 in November in Cape May, NJ, typically appearing on days with strong NW winds following a strong cold front, almost always between 1-20 Nov. It is theorized that Cave Swallows (along with other western vagrants) arrive in the "warm sector winds", southwesterly winds that occur immediately prior to the passage of a cold front. In early Nov 1998 a major low pressure system swept through the Midwest, with warm sector winds trailing down to central Texas. Record numbers of Cave Swallows appeared in ON, RI, CT, NY, VA, PA, DE, and NC, with up to 35 at Cape May, NJ. Had there been more active Maryland birders at the coast during that period it is almost certain that Maryland would have garnered its first record. Cave Swallow has also been appearing outside of the November vagrant window, however, with recent records from Mar (NJ), Apr (NJ), May (NJ, VA), and Aug (VA). Look for this species singly or among swallow flocks during any season, especially at the coast and especially on early November days following the passage of a cold front.

3) Little Egret – 10 votes – ***[July, Assateague Island causeway, Worcester Co.]*** — Now known from a handful of records in nearby states, increased birder awareness has been producing regular records of this species on the East Coast recently, though many are still probably overlooked. Virginia has one well-documented record (Chincoteague May-Aug 1992, returned in 1993), Delaware has two records (Bombay Hook/Little Creek Apr-Aug 1999; Bombay Hook Jun 2001), Rhode Island has one (Block Island fall 1998), and others have appeared in MA (4), NH (2), NS, PQ, and NF. Most likely to be detected between April and early July, when the two long head plumes instantly separate this species from the similar Snowy Egret. Those of us with nothing better to do have been making regular spring trips to Ocean City, E.A. Vaughn WMA, Deal Island WMA, Blackwater NWR, and other egret concentration areas specifically to look for this species. We'll keep crossing our fingers.

4) Say's Phoebe – 10 votes – ***[September, Bayside Campground, Assateague Island, Worcester Co.]*** — In contrast to the three above species which have been found with increasing regularity, Say's

(continued at top of next page)

The Next 10 (cont.)

Phoebes have been occurring in the East at a nearly constant rate ever since birding began to become popular. It is long overdue in Maryland given the records in surrounding states: PA (10+), NY (15+), VA (6+), NJ (7+), MA (20+) etc. Possible anywhere in the state in fall, but most likely on the coast from Sep-Oct. Note that there are about 20 winter records from East Coast states, including almost 10 from PA and one from Highland Co., VA, 1 Dec 1985-10 Apr 1986.

5) Townsend's Warbler – 10 votes – ***[November, E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., Worcester Co.*** — Known from a majority of East Coast states including ME (2+), NH (2+), MA (5+), RI (1), NJ (7+), NY (18+), PA (2+), VA (1), NC, SC, and GA. Amazingly Bermuda has at least 5 records. Virginia's first was found on the Cape Charles CBC 29 Dec 1999-12 Jan 2001 on a birdy woodland edge. Maryland's first could appear at a feeding station somewhere, be found at any migration hotspot in either spring or fall, or could appear in a winter chickadee flock on some birdy CBC. One point of interest with this species is that East Coast migration records are split between spring and fall, while those of the closely related Black-throated Gray Warbler, which follows a similar migration path and has similar wintering grounds, has occurred in the East almost exclusively in the fall. Weird.

6) Western Meadowlark – 9 votes – ***[June, Aaron Run Rd., Garrett Co.]*** — This one probably occurs annually in the state and narrowly missed being documented conclusively when Michael O'Brien found 3 on Doubs Rd., near Lilipons, Frederick Co., in Feb 1991. No photos or tape recordings were ever obtained, though at least one was probably refound the next day. There are numerous summer records in NY and PA, including some very close to the MD line, as well as numerous other records from NJ, MA, and NB. Surprisingly though, most other states have no records. Almost all (except one fall migrant from MA) have occurred as singing, summering birds in large, dry, fields, sometimes apparently paired with another Meadowlark. Hybridization with Eastern Meadowlark is known from New York. My personal favorite location for this species are Garrett Co. strip mine areas (e.g., Aaron Run Rd.), but it may pay to carefully check meadowlark flocks on the Eastern Shore and in the Piedmont, and will certainly pay to listen carefully to every meadowlark you find. Note that Western Meadowlark songs can be given by Eastern Meadowlarks, but that the "chuck" note of Western Meadowlark is diagnostic (as is the "zzrrt" note of Eastern).

7) Shiny Cowbird – 9 votes – ***[August, Hurlock, Dorchester Co.]*** — Although this species seemed to be making major inroads in the late 1980s and early 1990s, its pace seems to have slowed and the population has stabilized in FL. Still, it appears annually as far north as the Outer Banks of NC and has strayed as far as Monhegan Island, ME (24-26 May 1991) and NB. I waste hours in late summer going through cowbird flocks on the Eastern Shore (Hurlock, Dorchester Co., always has a flock of 500-2000 in Aug). Just such an effort paid off in Surry Co., VA, 18 Aug 1991, with that state's only record to date.

8) Reddish Egret – 7 votes - ***[July, Eagle's Nest mudflats, Worcester Co.]*** — It is frustrating that nearby Delaware, that tiny little county-sized state to our East, has two records of this species from Little Creek WMA. Reddish Egret is nearly annual north to the Outer Banks, and in addition to DE has strayed up to NJ (once), PA (once), NY (2), and MA (2-3). Look for it as a post-breeding wanderer on coastal flats behind barrier islands.

9) Allen's Hummingbird – 5 votes - ***[November, Sam Pancake's yard, Takoma Park, Montgomery Co.]*** — The winter hummingbird show has been ever more interesting in recent years, with recent records including such oddities as Green Violet-Ear, Green-breasted Mango, Blue-throated, Broad-billed, Calliope, Black-chinned, and Anna's Hummingbirds. Marylanders are encouraged to remain alert to any hummingbirds after mid-Oct which are likely to at least be Rufous, and which could be just about any U.S. hummingbird. We need to continue to check every *Selasphorus* for the possibility of an Allen's, which essentially involves capture and in-hand examination of each individual. Given that Allen's breeds and winters exclusively on the West Coast, it is nothing short of amazing that it has been documented no less than five times already in the East in MA, NJ, DE, VA, and GA. If we consider that only about 30-40% of reported *Selasphorus* are identified to species, then this becomes even more amazing – about 5% are proving to be Allen's! Maryland has done quite well with hummingbird documentation, with about half of the *Selasphorus* records being confirmed Rufous. Given that Delaware has one Allen's, one Broad-tailed, and only a couple accepted Rufous among its 12 *Selasphorus* reports, it makes the world seem like a very unfair place.

10) Kirtland's Warbler – 5 votes – ***[May, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co.]*** — This is a species whose *entire* migration path probably passes just barely west of our state, and which probably passes through or over the state every year. With a recovered population hovering around 700 pairs, there is not a very large pool of birds from which to draw vagrants. Given that this species breeds almost exclusively in Michigan is believed to winter exclusively in the Bahamas, there are incredibly few records from its migration path which must pass through FL, GA, SC, and NC. Most migration records have come from those Southeastern states or states along the Great Lakes shore such as IN and OH. There are several records from w. PA, but none particularly close to Maryland. A recent Virginia bird was found at Curles Neck Farm, near Richmond, 26-27 Sep 1998. Although there are records from the Southeast (FL, GA, SC) as early as 12 Apr, spring migration records on the East Coast are concentrated from late Apr to mid-May. Fall migrants have been noted as early as late Aug, but there is a distinct concentration form mid-Sep to early Oct. Close to Maryland, there are two PA records from 14 May, and VA records from 1 Sep, 25 Sep, 26-27 Sep, and 1 Oct. Probably most likely to occur in western MD or the Piedmont.

The Runners Up

11) White-tailed Kite – 4 votes — White-tailed Kite actually has a very nicely documented record from Town Hill, Allegany Co., 26 Oct 1990, but the MD/DCRC voted for non-acceptance in a controversial and split vote. There are a couple of other reports from Maryland, two from VA (Apr and Jun) as well as well-documented records from Cape May, NJ, 4 Jun 1998, Dutchess, NY, 26-27 Apr 1983, and Martha's Vineyard, MA, 30 May 1910. This species is still pushing the limits of its range, but remains a very rare vagrant to the East Coast, though the Carolinas have accumulated a handful of records in recent years. The late-Apr to early Jun period seems the most likely one for this species.

12) Northern Lapwing – 4 votes — If you needed a reason to check killdeer flocks in mid-winter when all hope of Buff-breasteds and golden-plovers has long since faded, then the prospect of discovering Maryland's first Northern Lapwing may give you stamina. This sensational European visitor has been discovered with increasing regularity in recent years, and seems to turn up at almost any season (e.g., Delaware's three records hail from 14-15 Mar 1953, 6-7 Jul 1996, and Dec 1999). We should be especially attentive should another December storm sweep across the North Atlantic, such as the ones of Dec 1927 and 1966, which brought hundreds to Maritime Canada (see Bagg, A.M. 1967. Factors affecting the occurrence of the Northern Lapwing in Eastern North America. *Living Bird* 6:87-122).

13) Black-tailed Godwit – 4 votes — I think some reviewers were seduced by the recent Apr 2001 appearance of this species on Long Island, NY, and in nearby CT. In actuality, this remains one of the rarest of European vagrant shorebird, with only about 10 East Coast records south of Atlantic Canada. And have we forgotten that Maryland has

(continued at top of next page)

The Next 10 (cont.)

no shorebird habitat? Okay, Hart-Miller Island has been good recently, but it is not really a godwit spot. Since any godwit is noteworthy in our *Limosa*-poor state, we should continue to check every Hudsonian for a Black-tailed (look for white underwings) and every Marbled for a Bar-tailed. However, I think every one of the eight species below will occur before the state first Black-tailed Godwit. I'd love to be proved wrong though!

14) White-winged Tern – 4 votes — Maryland has one very well-documented report from Point Lookout SP in 1994, but the documentation fell short of acceptance in this sometimes difficult-to-identify species. Although this species has turned up in about half of the East Coast states, a vast majority of the records have come from coastal DE and Chincoteague, VA, with relatively few records away from those areas. Look for this species anywhere that Black Terns concentrate and pay close attention to the underwings – Black Tern should never have any black in the axillars.

15) Calliope Hummingbird – 4 votes — I can't help but let my biases creep in, and this one was my number 6 pick, above Allen's Hummingbird and my favorite vagrant hummingbird choice. All East Coast Calliope Hummingbirds have come in recent years, but the pace is quickening. For example, Georgia's first was in 1998, its second in 1999, and in 2000 *five* were banded in that state. Both Carolinas and VA have recently garnered their first records, the latter coming 29-31 Dec 2000. In Cape May, NJ, Calliope has occurred twice (23 Nov-5 Dec 1996 and 11-15 Nov 2000), but both times the individuals were initially misidentified as Rufous Hummingbirds, so Maryland birders need to be especially careful in identification of late season hummers. Birders need to keep hummingbird feeders out through Christmas and should spread the word immediately if a hummingbird appears after mid-October.

16) White-tailed Tropicbird – 3 votes — Although White-tailed Tropicbirds are probably not regular in Maryland waters, they may occur in years with warm water incursions to the pelagic zone. A more likely scenario for the state first tropicbird will be a hurricane coming inland from the Gulf Stream. Several past hurricanes have tossed White-tailed Tropicbirds as far inland as inland NC, western VA, and even PA. Away from the Carolinas there are almost as many records of Red-billed Tropicbird as there are of White-tailed, so birders should be alert to either possibility on late summer pelagic trips or while looking for hurricane-tossed vagrants.

17) Garganey – 3 votes — There is a published, but undocumented, report from Maryland 3-6 May 1978 (*Maryland Birdlife* 33:122), which was unfortunately dismissed as an escapee. Spear et al. (Spear, L.B., M.J. Lewis, M.T. Myres, and R.L. Pyle. 1988. The recent occurrence of Garganey in North America and the Hawaiian Islands. *American Birds* 42:385-392) discussed Garganey records through 1988 and made an excellent argument for natural vagrancy for most Garganey in the U.S.A. Maryland does have some excellent waterfowl areas (e.g., Blackwater NWR, Deal Island WMA, E.A. Vaughn WMA) which draw good teal numbers that could host a migrant Garganey. Almost all birds detected in the U.S.A. have been adult males in alternate plumage, but observers should note that Garganey have distinctive wing patterns and even a female should be recognizable. Almost all East Coast records have been with Blue-winged Teal in spring, primarily during their migration period 25 Mar-25 May.

18) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – 3 votes — Although we might expect European shorebirds to be the ones more likely to occur on the East Coast, in truth the records have shown that Siberian species occur with greater frequency. For example, Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper have occurred many times more than Common Redshank and European Golden-Plover, both of which have barely reached the U.S.A. in Maritime Canada. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper does not occur regularly in western Europe, but has strayed from Siberia throughout the U.S.A., and even closer to the Maryland state line than the Selbyville Eurasian Collared-Doves. One Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on the Hunting Creek mudflats in Fairfax, VA, 14-23 Sep 1983 probably could have been seen flying out over Maryland waters of the Potomac River had anyone thought to try. Most of the 10+ East Coast records have been juveniles mid-Sep to mid-Oct, though there have been intermittent East Coast records of adults from May to Aug.

19) Bell's Vireo – 3 votes — A banded bird identified in the hand on Assateague Island, Worcester Co., MD, 8 Sep 1956, was unfortunately not well documented but may very well have been correctly identified. Bell's Vireo may have the distinction of being the species that breeds closest to Maryland (central OH) without ever having occurred in the state. Furthermore it is migratory and has precedent for occurrence out of range on the East Coast. There are essentially no spring records for the East, and fall records show bimodal pattern that suggests different processes of vagrancy. Seven records from 8 Sep-14 Oct probably represent migrants straying west from their normal path, while four additional records from late Oct to Jan correspond better to the late fall reverse migration so well-documented in Cave Swallows and Ash-throated Flycatchers. This subtle species should be looked for carefully from Sep to Christmas Count Season, and great care should be taken to separate it from similar immature White-eyed Vireos.

20) Sprague's Pipit – 3 votes — Sprague's Pipit is an enigmatic vagrant, which must certainly occur more often than we know. In its short-grass habitat it can be amazingly secretive and hard to see, so it would be a very hard bird to detect in the state. The best habitat must certainly be airport runways, which furthermore are difficult habitats to access safely. This species will not occur among American Pipit flocks and should be expected to be found singly during fall, early winter, or spring. Maryland birders should try to familiarize themselves with this species' distinctive flight call, which is typically given repeatedly when flushed at close range.

21) Golden-crowned Sparrow – 3 votes — Here is a sparrow that is normally restricted entirely to the West Coast, yet has appeared more than a dozen times along the East Coast, including records from NJ (6), PA (1), NY (2), CT (1), ME (2), and Atlantic Canada (4+). The Northeastern slant to the records is noteworthy, and most have involved wintering birds between Oct and Apr. It could appear as a feeder bird or winterer mixed in with sparrows in a nice field or wood edge.

Honorable Mentions (2 votes)

Brown Booby – Although it is regular nowhere on the East Coast north of the Dry Tortugas, Brown Booby has had a remarkable track record of vagrancy along the East Coast, with numerous records to NJ, NY, and MA. Some, but not all, have involved hurricane-displaced birds and most have been seen near shore.

Mottled Duck – A vagrant Mottled Duck would blend so expertly among American Black Ducks and female Mallards, that it is hard to even guess how often they stray to the Northeast. One was seen at Jamaica Bay NWR, NY, 31 Aug 1998, and there have been three banding recoveries (two from NJ and one from VA) of birds banded in FL as Mottled Ducks, though the identities of the birds have not been able to be confirmed. Birders in Maryland who relish a challenge should study up on the subtle points that would separate a vagrant Mottled from an American Black x Mallard hybrid.

Black-chinned Hummingbird – How this bird escaped with only 2 votes I don't know. The late-season show of vagrant hummingbirds is no longer a phenomenon restricted to the Gulf Coast states, and should be at the forefront of everyone's consciousness. Black-chinned has now appeared in NS (mid-Nov), once in MA (late Nov), twice in NJ

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The Next 10 (cont.)

(late Oct, mid-Nov), and numerous times in winter in NC, SC, and GA. Every female Ruby-throated-type Hummingbird seen after 20 Oct should be studied very carefully, in the hand if possible. For the third time I'll say, put out hummingbird feeders in Oct and Nov, plant late season hummingbird flowers (e.g. Pineapple Sage), and don't ignore *any* hummingbird after mid-Oct.

Great-tailed Grackle – Given the massive strides that this bird has been making in West and Midwest (it now breeds to central CA on the West Coast and to southern MN in the Midwest), it is shocking that it has not turned up more frequently on the East Coast. The only East Coast record I am aware of is a female that was photographed visiting a feeder in NS. Maryland birders should be keenly aware that any Boat-tailed type grackle seen away from the immediate coast or Bay shore is more likely to be a Great-tailed. Identification is difficult, but decent photos should amply confirm any record based on the larger and longer proportions of Great-tailed.

Long shots (1 vote)

Fea's Petrel – Herald Petrel (which did not receive any votes) would probably be more likely than Fea's Petrel, given that it has more than twice the records that Fea's Petrel does in the U.S.A. Both are now considered rare but regular in the Gulf Stream off NC, and both have strayed farther afield, Herald to VA, NY, and possibly PA, and Fea's to VA, NJ, NS, and NF. Both have appeared as hurricane-borne vagrants but only Fea's has strayed far from the warm Gulf Stream waters, appearing off Atlantic Canada.

Neotropic Cormorant – Scarpulla's choice. This species has yet to reach the East Coast, or any adjacent states, but is expanding and has penetrated far into the Midwest. I think we can expect an appearance on the East Coast in the near future, and observers should be alert for any small cormorants, especially at inland locales, and should familiarize themselves with the details of face pattern that would be necessary to confirm a report of Neotropic Cormorant

Pink-footed Goose – This one came up on Davis' list, and has occurred recently in PA, CT, MA, and NF, and historically in DE and PQ. Look for it among Snow Goose flocks. It is considered relatively rare in captivity but observers should be attentive to behavior, other species associations, and other clues that may indicate a captive origin.

Snowy Plover – Another one that appeared in Davis' survey. There are old (1886) and recent (1986) PA records, as well as others from MA, NC, SC, and GA. One bird returned to a Piping Plover colony in VA for four summers 1995-1998. Our best chance is on the north end of Assateague in with the Pipings.

Bar-tailed Godwit – Davidson was the only one to select this species, and it is surprising that Black-tailed Godwit beat Bar-tailed by a three vote margin, especially given that Bar-tailed has some 40 East Coast records (most from MA, NY, and NJ) compared to scarcely 10 for Black-tailed Godwit. No godwit should be brushed off in Maryland so I trust that we won't pass this one up should it someday occur on Eagle's Nest Flats.

Ivory Gull – Davidson picked this one on her list, and is a bird that has surely occurred already in MD. A specimen in the Smithsonian is labeled "Potomac River" the problem is that while MD controls the lion's share of the river, it could possibly have been collected in DC or VA. Records from Long Beach, CA, and TN prove that this species can wander even farther than MD.

Long-billed Murrelet – Michael O'Brien's long shot, this intrepid alcid has been making waves countrywide, and has occurred in the East in NF, MA, RI, NY, NC, and SC (twice). Records have been primarily Sep-Dec, and are split between inland and coastal localities. What's your p;ick Michael, Deep Creek Lake or Ocean City?

Great Gray Owl – This one came up as #10 on Davis' systematic approach, but is a real long shot. In invasion years it has reached northern PA only twice this century, has not been verified in NJ, and is strictly accidental in all New England states except ME, NH, VT, and NY, but note that it has reached Long Island.

Boreal Owl – Iliff hopes that one of the Saw-whet Owl banding operations will produce one eventually. A recent record from our latitude in OH and two PA records, which include a recent one caught…at a Saw-whet banding operation.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird – This one made Paul O'Brien's list. Known from a recent 1998 DE record, a Nov 2001 NC record, and at least a couple in GA. See above comments on hummingbirds, be ready for anything, and continue to keep hummingbird feeders up late

Lewis's Woodpecker – Appeared on Davis' list, based on records from Lucketts, VA, in 1988, from NY in 1954, Jun 1997, and Oct 1997, from MA May 1966 and Jun 1969, and from Block Island, RI, Nov 1928. The Lucketts bird was within the Sugarloaf, MD, CBC circle!

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher – Another pick of Davis'. There are two records of Pacific-slope from PA, a Western flycatcher suspected of being Pacific-slope from VA, an unidentified Western Flycatcher from NJ, and a Cordilleran banded on Long Island, NY. All late fall and winter *Empidonax* flycatchers should receive intense scrutiny.

Violet-green Swallow – Hilton's number 8 pick, and probably deserving of a higher place on the list, Violet-green Swallow may occur more frequently than it is detected, since late fall vagrants probably are easily lost among the late October and early November swarms of Tree Swallows at the coast. Birders at Cape May have turned this species up twice (16-29 Nov 1997 and 7-13 Nov 1992) and there have been at least five other East Coast reports at more varied seasons.

The Strangest Omission

A category of my own, I must say I am shocked that **MacGillivray's Warbler** did not appear anywhere among the 38 top choices, especially given that long shots such as Great Gray Owl, Pink-footed Goose, and Neotropic Cormorant made the list. MacGillivray's has at least 10 East Coast records to date (about as many *or more than* Little Egret, Garganey, White-tailed Kite, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Allen's and Calliope Hummingbirds, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Bells' Vireo) But who am I to throw stones though? I put Boreal Owl above it (and I'm sticking to it!). Nonetheless, observers need to be keenly aware that any Mourning Warbler after October probably isn't – nearly all MacGillivray's have occurred between late Oct and Dec, and I am not aware of any Mourning Warbler records for the East Coast after mid-Oct.

As a final game for myself, I tried considering how many species would be added to the state list if Maryland expanded its borders by 10 miles in every direction. I came up with a dozen species: Eurasian Collared-Dove (Selbyville, DE); Lewis's Woodpecker (Lucketts, VA); Ivory Gull (Potomac River); Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Hunting Creek and Chincoteague); Little Egret, White-cheeked Pintail, Garganey, Mountain Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Elegant Tern, White-winged Tern, and Western Marsh Harrier (Chincoteague).

A quick look at the state lists of surrounding states (VA, WV, DE, PA, NJ, NY) invites the following possibilities:

(continued at top of next page)

The Next 10 (cont.)

Yellow-billed Loon (NY)
Clark's Grebe (VA)
Black-browed Albatross
Herald Petrel
Fea's Petrel
Mottled Petrel
Buller's Shearwater
Short-tailed Shearwater
White-tailed Tropicbird
Red-billed Tropicbird
Masked Booby
Brown Booby
[Neotropic Cormorant]
Reddish Egret
Little Egret
Pink-footed Goose
[Black Brant]
Garganey
White-tailed Kite
Ferruginous Hawk
Eurasian Kestrel
Spruce Grouse
Paint-billed Crake
Spotted Rail
Northern Lapwing

[Common Ringed Plover]
Snowy Plover
Mountain Plover
Mongolian Plover
Pacific Golden-Plover
Wood Sandpiper
Spotted Redshank
["Eurasian" Whimbrel]
Eurasian Curlew
Bar-tailed Godwit
Black-tailed Godwit
Surfbird
Broad-billed Sandpiper
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Eurasian Woodcock
Ivory Gull
Slaty-backed Gull
Elegant Tern
White-winged Tern
Whiskered Tern
Brown Noddy
Ancient Murrelet
Long-billed Murrelet
Eurasian Collared-Dove

[Inca Dove]
Smooth-billed Ani
Boreal Owl
Northern Hawk-Owl
Great Gray Owl
[Vaux's Swift]
[Black Swift]
Common Swift
[Lesser Nighthawk]
[Green Violet-Ear]
Calliope Hummingbird
Allen's Hummingbird
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Lewis's Woodpecker
Williamson's Sapsucker
Western Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
[Tropical Kingbird]
Cassin's Kingbird
[Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher]
Black-whiskered Vireo

Bell's Vireo
[Cassin's Vireo]
Gray Jay
Black-billed Magpie
Brown-chested Martin
Cave Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Black-backed Wagtail
Sprague's Pipit
Townsend's Warbler
[Hermit Warbler]
Painted Redstart
MacGillivray's Warbler
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
[Brewer's Sparrow]
[McCown's Longspur]
[Slate-colored Fox Sparrow]
Western Meadowlark
Shiny Cowbird
[Great-tailed Grackle]
[Hooded Oriole]
[Scott's Oriole]
Brambling

The Final Listing

Placement	Species	Votes Received
1	Eurasian Collared-Dove	13
2	Cave Swallow	11
3	Little Egret	10
3	Say's Phoebe	10
3	Townsend's Warbler	10
6	Western Meadowlark	9
6	Shiny Cowbird	9
8	Reddish Egret	7
9	Allen's Hummingbird	5
9	Kirtland's Warbler	5
11	White-tailed Kite	4
11	Northern Lapwing	4
11	Black-tailed Godwit	4
11	White-winged Tern	4
11	Calliope Hummingbird	4
16	White-tailed Tropicbird	3
16	Garganey	3
16	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3
16	Bell's Vireo	3
16	Sprague's Pipit	3
16	Golden-crowned Sparrow	3
22	Brown Booby	2
22	Mottled Duck	2
22	Black-chinned Hummingbird	2
22	Great-tailed Grackle	2
26	Fea's Petrel	1
27	Neotropic Cormorant	1
28	Pink-footed Goose	1
29	Snowy Plover	1
30	Bar-tailed Godwit	1
31	Ivory Gull	1
32	Long-billed Murrelet	1
33	Great Gray Owl	1
34	Boreal Owl	1
35	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1
36	Lewis's Woodpecker	1
37	Cordilleran Flycatcher	1
38	Violet-green Swallow	1

MOS ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS -- JAN/FEB 2002

Tuesday, January 1

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Start Your 2002 List. We will visit a variety of locations all within Howard County to find as many species as possible. This will be an all day trip with a break for lunch at a local diner. Meet at the Centennial Park boat dock at 8:00 a.m. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Earliest Bird Walk - Georgetown Reservoir & DC Hot Spots. - Start the new year right. Everyone welcome. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. For further information, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301 530-5764.

Wednesday, January 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

Thursday, January 3

MEETING. Frederick. Hank Kaestner will present "2001: A Birdwatching Odyssey," his tales of travel around the world, including New Guinea, Norway, Australia, and Guatemala in search of the Horned Guan. Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Breeding Bird Atlas and Yellow Book" by Jane Coskren. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, January 5

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter gull trip. Details TBA.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Eastern Neck NWR & Remington Farms. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Parke John, at 410-287-6037 (H) or 410-506-3874 (W).

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fran Uhler Natural Area parking lot at the end of Lemon Bridge Road. For further information, contact Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. MD/DE Coastal Birding. For winter specialties and hopefully a few Christmas Count discoveries. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact the leader, Sam Dyke, at 410-742-5497.

Sunday, January 6

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Whether you're a serious lister or a beginner looking for pointers on gull identification, this one's for you. Led by noted gull-watcher Gene Scarpulla, this all-morning trip may turn up such winter rarities as Iceland, Lesser Black-backed or Black-headed Gulls. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the base of the dam, at the East end of Shures Landing Road. For more information, contact Dave Powell at 410-452-5806. Mostly stationary trip with only minimal walking, heavy clothing and a warm beverage recommended.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Ducks Unlimited! - Black Hill Regional Park. Predictably excellent for wintering waterfowl, and good also for raptors, finches, and possible red-headed woodpeckers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the park visitor center. Scopes and snacks desirable. Call leader to determine trip status in the event of inclement weather. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703 575-8418.

Thursday, January 10

MEETING. Howard. "Costa Rica in the Year 2000 with MOS," by Darius Ecker. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Birding Venezuela: A Photographic Journey" by J. William Oberman, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Friday, January 11

MEETING. Harford. "Breeding Biology of the Louisiana Waterthrush" by Tim O'Connell. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-879-0642.

Saturday, January 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Winter Waterfowl at Marshy Point. Baltimore County's newest nature center for winter waterfowl: ducks, geese, swans. Half mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable. Telescopes useful. Exit Beltway I-695 at Rt. 702 south. 2nd exit onto Chase/Eastern Blvd. Go 6 miles. Turn right at sign for Dundee & Saltpeter Creek Park. Go 1/4 mile to dead end. Alternate date: Sat Jan 19 if weather is questionable. To confirm, call the leader, Bob Rineer, at 410-391-8499.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Horsehead Wetlands Sanctuary. Half-day trip to see sea ducks, walk trails and boardwalk over the marsh. Observation towers overlook east side of Kent Island. Easy walking. Telescopes useful. Entrance fee waived for BBC members. Option to meet there 8:00 a.m. or at 7:00 a.m. at the Nursery Rd.- Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the coordinator, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217 or email: pwebb@bcpl.net. Optional visit to Terrapin Park on west side of Kent Island for more waterfowl.

HOLIDAY PARTY. Carroll. Our annual party is a little later than in past years but guaranteed to be just as enjoyable. The Yinglings are once again our gracious hosts. 8:00 p.m. to whenever. Contact Sue Yingling at 410-876-8211 to coordinate your potluck dish.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Audrey Carroll Mid-Winter Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:00 a.m.. Dress warmly with waterproof boots. Call David Smith at 410-549-7082 for further information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eleventh Annual Feeder Tour. The morning trip will tour two to three bird-feeder establishments in the Bel Air section of Harford County. Participation is limited, please contact coordinator Dave Seitz at 410-838-2150 to reserve your spot and get meeting times and location. In the case of inclement weather, the trip will be postponed to Saturday, January 19th.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Feeder watch. Details TBA. For further information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A Winter Walk, Birders' Hotline Special. We'll go wherever the birds are to be found. Location of the field trip will be determined after checking with the hotline. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Rt. 66 Park & Ride. Contact trip leader Judy Lilga, at (301) 432-2276, for additional information.

Sunday, January 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam for gulls and eagles. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall at light pole on NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575 or email: ejscarp@home.com.

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper at 5:30 p.m.. "A Tale of Two Islands: East Coast - West Coast" by David Holmes. For your dish assignment, register by Thursday, Jan 10 with Shirley Geddes at 410-377-6583.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Hidden Valley. Join Debbie Bowers on a morning trip to Hidden Valley section of Rocks State Park. The trip will focus on finding winter regulars as well as looking for any irruptive species like Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch. Meeting time is 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the intersection of Carea and Madonna roads. Contact Debbie Bowers at 410-692-9741 for further information.

Monday, January 14

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk around Centennial Lake. Moderate walking on the

(continued at top of next page)

MOS ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS

(continued from previous page)

paved path around the lake in search of waterfowl. Meet at the boat dock 8:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, John Maloney, at 301-317-4961.

Thursday, January 17

MEETING. Caroline. "Bluebirds" presented by Danny Poet. 7:30 p.m. at the Choptank Electric Cooperative on the corner of Bus 404 & Rt. 328 in Denton.

Friday-Monday, January 18-21

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Outer Banks, North Carolina. Wintering ducks, geese, swans, shorebirds, loons, gannets. Search also for less common gulls and a variety of wintering land birds. Call the leader for motel and trip information. A perennially popular trip. Reservations required. Limited to 14 people. Jim green will co-lead. For reservations and further information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301 871-7990.

Saturday, January 19

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. New Design Road and Lilypons. For Horned Larks, sparrows and hawks, possible Lapland Longspurs. Telescopes useful. Some walking in exposed, cold, windy fields; wear warm clothing and boots. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Security Boulevard Park & Ride at the east end of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217 or email: pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Ocean Trip. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Frederick County Feeder Watch Field Trip. A leisurely tour to several member homes to watch our winter residents. Good for beginners with lots of advice on feeding birds. Meet at Lois Kauffman's house at 8:00 a.m.; call Lois at 301-845-6690 for details.

Saturday-Monday, January 19-21

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Delaware weekend. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Sunday, January 20

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Sweet Air. Join leader Mark Johnson for a half-day trip to Gunpowder Falls State Park Sweet Air section. The fields and hedgerows are great for winter birding. Target species will be Fox and Tree Sparrows, Red-Breasted Nuthatch and Pileated Woodpeckers. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot on Dalton-Bevard Road. For further details contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978.

Tuesday, January 22

MEETING. Washington. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own plate, cup, silverware and drink. Kevin Dodge will give a presentation on "Northern Saw-whet Owl Breeding and Conservation." The meeting will be held at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center, close to Rt. 66 and I-70. For directions and further information contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Saturday, January 26

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Broad Creek, tidal Potomac. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltway Plaza, Greenbelt, at the Target parking area at the end nearest Wendy's. For further information, contact the leader, Fred Shaffer, at 410-721-1744.

Sunday, January 27

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annapolis Neck & Thomas Point, A. A. County. Waterfowl birding and socializing over soup. Meet at 12:00 noon at the Bay Ridge Shopping Center lot. For further information, contact the leader, Gerald Winegrad, at 410-820-8956.

Monday, January 28

MEETING. Tri-County. "Birding in Japan" by Eric Decker. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fox Room of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Friday, February 1

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding thr American West" by Paul Zucker. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, February 2

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. The Seasons at Fair Hill - Winter. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fair Hill Nature Center - Covered Bridge Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Scott Powers, at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bradenbaugh Flats. Traditional trip to the gentle rolling fields of the Upper Deer Creek watershed. for Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Eastern Meadowlark. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Jarrettsville Elementary School, located on MD 23, a half mile west of MD 165. The morning trip will consist mostly of drive-and-stop birding. Participants are invited to the leader's home afterwards for homemade soup and breads. For further information, contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at 410-692-5905.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Ocean City to Broadkill Marsh. Wintering waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Ocean City Inlet. Bring scope, food and warm drinks. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301 963-8525.

Tuesday, February 5

MEETING. Baltimore. "The Breeding Bird Survey of Baltimore City and County" by Robert Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, February 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist Jim Peters in the National Aquarium's project of surveying bird activity around a 10-acre man-made (mitigated) wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz 410-833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, 410-435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Maryland's Breeding Bird Atlas - Study 2002 to 2006" by Bob Ringler. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the Carroll Community College Annex, 300 S. Center St., Westminster. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, February 7

MEETING. Frederick. Kevin Dodge will talk on "Northern Saw-whet Owl Breeding and Conservation in the Central Appalachians." Meet in the Frederick High School Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 9

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Black Marsh, Marshy Hope and North Point State Park. All day trip to Baltimore County hotspots along the Chesapeake shoreline. A mixture of habitats attracts a wide variety of birds, ranging from waterfowl (Canvasback and Lesser Scaup) to Winter Wren, Northern Harrier and Fox Sparrow. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 152/I-95 Park & Ride. For further information, contact the leaders, Larry and Jean Fry, at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Feeder watch. Details TBA. For further information, contact Pat Wilson, at 410-778-1005.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A trip to Ballenger Creek Park. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Rt. 66 Park & Ride. Contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109 for information.

Sunday, February 10

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Eastern Neck NWR for winter waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Bay 50 Shopping Center off Rt. 50 at Mikasa. For further information, contact the leader, Stephen Hult at 410-956-3392.

Thursday, February 14

MEETING. Howard. "Giant Panda Conservation and Management," by Lisa Stevens, Senior Curator National Zoo. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Bird Conservation through Citizen Science" by Frank Gill, Senior Vice President, National Audubon Society. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

(continued at top of next page)

MOS ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS

(continued from previous page)

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Presidents' Birthday Observance Weekend, Delmarva Peninsula: Wilmington, DE to Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. (Joint with ANS). Winter waterfowl, songbirds, possibly white-winged gulls, eiders, Harlequin Ducks and Great Cormorants. For further details, look in late 2001/early 2002 issues of ANS Naturalist News. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

Saturday-Monday, February 16-18

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter Weekend Birding Trip to Sault St. Marie, MI. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Our annual weekend to the Eastern Shore. Come spend part or all of the weekend with us birding. Limited accommodations. For more information & to RSVP, contact Amy Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. President's Weekend Trip to Southern Maryland or Eastern Shore, or maybe even Outer Banks — wherever the rare birds are turning up at this time of year. Call Mike Welch at 301-874-5828 to reserve a spot.

Saturday, February 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cape Henlopen to Ocean City. Trip to Delaware coast and Ocean City in search of Scoters, Oldsquaw, Brant, Purple Sandpipers, Red-throated Loons, and Gannets. Eiders and Harlequin Ducks possible. Telescopes very useful. Meals bought on the road. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride at Beltway Exit 8. Optional meeting place: Cape May-Lewes Ferry parking lot at 10:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217 or pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Hardcore Owling. Meet at 4:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

Sunday, February 17

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford County - A full day birding of all the hotspots of Harford County. Target species will be sparrows, ducks and any reported rarity. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart on MD 40. Bring lunch or buy en route. Wear warm, comfortable clothing. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Larkin, at 410-569-8319.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Wild Goose Chase. We will go chasing whatever interesting birds are around. Maybe anywhere in the state or a local feeder? Be prepared for anything. Meet at the Rt. 100 Park & ride at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Southern Dorchester County for wintering raptors and waterfowl. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. Leader TBA. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, February 19

MEETING. Allegany. "Winging It". Join us in Tawes Hall at Frostburg State University at 7:00 p.m. where Gwen Brewer will present a program on bird anatomy – concentrating primarily on wing feathers.

Thursday, February 21

MEETING. Caroline. "Bird Rehabilitation" presented by Traci Higdon, Executive Director of the Caroline County Humane Society. 7:30 p.m. at the Choptank Electric Cooperative on the corner of Bus 404 & Rt. 328 in Denton.

Friday, February 22

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Timberdoodles at Audrey Carroll. Meet at the Park & Ride, Rte. 75 just south of I-70 at 5:30 PM. Bring a flashlight. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 304-754-7517 or Doug Parker at 301-663-1909.

Saturday, February 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Patuxent Naval Air Station. Southern Maryland reservation-only trip for winter delights. Guaranteed to get lots of Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows and a great variety of waterfowl. Snow Bunting likely, Common Snipe, Lapland Longspur and Short-eared Owl possible. Limit 20 people, by reservation only. Call Pete Webb at 410-486-1217, or pwebb@bcpl.net , to reserve your space on this special trip. "Snow date" is March 9. The leader is Kyle Rambo.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Pot Luck - Determined by Rare Bird Alerts. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Brian Moyer, at 410-306-0967 (W) or 410-378-5307 (H).

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Maryland and Delaware Shore. Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Purple Sandpiper could highlight this annual favorite. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the MD 155 & I-95 commuter lot (Havre de Grace exit). Bring lunch or buy en route. Wear warm, comfortable clothing; scope helpful. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Winter Wonders of Bon Secours. We will walk the grounds of this spiritual retreat to search for winter birds. Moderate walking with some steep slopes. Wear appropriate footwear if snowy. Meet at the visitors parking lot 8:30 a.m. For further information, call Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Sunday, February 24

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Waterfowl, land birds. Meet at the visitor center at 8:00 a.m. Bring scope and snacks. For further information, contact the leader, Rob Gibbs, at 301-253-6903.

Monday, February 25

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Moderate walking on the paved path around the lake. Woodland birds and waterfowl abound. Meet at the Broken Land Pkwy. Lot at 8:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, John Maloney, at 301-317-4961.

MEETING. Tri-County. "Preservation of Neotropical habitats" by George Jett. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fox Room of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, February 26

MEETING. Washington. "The Everglades: Birds and Conservation Issues" will be Marcia Balestri's topic. The meeting will be held at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center starting at 7:30 p.m. For directions and further information contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Thursday, February 28

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Mckee-Beshers WMA. Wintering landbirds, some waterfowl. Part I: Meet at 7 a.m. at Seneca parking lot (end of Riley's Lock Rd.). Bird until around 1:30 p.m., then lunch in Poolesville. Part II: Bird from 3 p.m. until dark. Meet at 3 p.m. at the Potomac River end of Sycamore Landing Road, then over to Hughes Hollow Parking lot off River Road and hopefully finish with a Woodcock display at dusk. Bring folding chair if you want and scope to scan river. Reservations required for full or half day. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Green, at 301-208-2393.

CHAPTER CHATTER

(continued from page 3, column 3)

County Chapter — Joy and Mike Bowen, Dick Homan and Erika Wilson — were among some 165 participants in the American Birding Association's five-day September Regional Conference in Santa Maria, CA, about 200 miles north of Los Angeles. Other MOS members on hand were Marcia Watson-Whitmyre of Cecil County and Tyler Bell and Jane Kostenko of St. Mary's County, who performed their customary essential roles as assistant managers of the conference.

Washington County Chapter Reaches Out to Fledglings and to Young Birders—The Bluebird Trail of 70 boxes at the Antietam Battlefield had a record year of 372 fledglings. The trail's mentor, Mark Rabbe, uses different kinds of boxes throughout the battlefield and has found the "new"oval opening on some of the boxes to be very successful. When asked to choose a topic to study this year, "birds" was among the top five topics chosen by the Washington County elementary school honors students. As a result, Judy Lilga, chapter president, has made presentations at elementary schools throughout the county and has taken two groups of students on bird walks through the schools' wildlife habitat which the science teachers have initiated in recent years.

Montgomery Chapter Life Member Writes Material for Other Birders—Traveling MOS members have found "A Birder's Guide to the Bahamas" extremely helpful. The author, Tony White, and his wife Trina, summer in Bethesda (Glen Echo Heights) and winter in the Bahamas. Tony is a life member of MOS and former president of the Montgomery Chapter. When he began birding the Bahamas in 1971, very little guidance was available. The only field guide was 25 years old and out of print. There was no site guide that would help on islands other than New Providence where Nassau is located. Tony began research both in the Bahamas and in the libraries in Washington. He found each island different; each with a slightly different avifauna. His book fills a very special need. Tony believes that an anthology he compiled with Kent Minichiello, "From Blue Ridge to Barrier Islands," now out in paperback, would be of special interest to MOS members. It is an anthology of natural history writing about the mid-Atlantic region starting with Captain John Smith and ending with two of Jack Wiley's pieces from Smithsonian Magazine. He is now working with Bruce Hallett on a photographic field guide to the birds of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition he is working on several papers: a checklist of Canada's new territory Nunavut to be published by Birders Journal next spring, an article on John White, the governor of the lost colony of Roanoke that will be published in Birding next spring, and an article on transient seabirds in the Bahamas for North American Birds. Tony says, "When I was in the Navy, I was lucky enough to be stationed on Adak in the Aleutian Islands for two years. That is where birding went from a casual hobby to an obsession, and I added many birds to my ABA list. When we returned to Maryland, I became active in MOS and ANS. I look on my active days in MOS and MCC as the maturation of life as a birder. I began knowing only half as much as I thought I did, and ended knowing more but recognizing my limits. The MCC field trips were definitely the main activity in my birding in the 80's. A Summer Tanager seen at Nassawango Furnace was my 500th bird and a White-winged Tern at Little Creek was my 700th. Eventually I stopped chasing lifers and began birding a single region (the Bahamas) in depth.

Allegany Honors Chapter Members at the Annual Fall Banquet—The Allegany Chapter held its annual Fall Banquet on October 27 at the Frostburg Community Center. As usual Charlotte Folk and her helpers, Nancy Folk, Gladys Faherty, and Kathleen Helker did a superb job with the decorations, door prizes, silent auction and all the many other jobs entailed in pulling off this night. The featured speaker was Mark Hoffman who presented a program on rare Maryland birds. Charlotte and Dan Folk were honored by the club for their many years of dedicated service and sacrifice. Former Pres. Chuck Hager presented Charlotte with a plaque affixed to a boulder to be placed in the Blue Bird trail field. This field will now be known as "Folk Field." Future plans for the site include the installation of a butterfly garden. Charlotte and Dan received a standing ovation from club members. As an addition to the wonderful surprises of the evening, chapter member Helmar Gottesthal presented the club with a beautiful painting he created of many of his favorite birds. He wishes this painting to be raffled off at this year's MOS Convention, with the proceeds to benefit the chapter. Club members were very touched by Helmar's generosity and thoughtfulness.

Baltimore Chapter Members Major in Astro-Ornithology—The recent Leonid Shower gave nine members of the Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) the opportunity to schedule the first BBC Astro-Ornithological Society Bird & Meteor Count. The count was held on a dark, cold (32 degrees) hill north of Reisterstown (behind Gail Frantz' house) on November 18 from 4:00 am to 6:45 am. Under the able leadership of Shireen Ganzaga, participants - Pete & Carolyn Webb, Gail & Harry Frantz, Elliot & Nancy Kirschbaum, Ruthanne & Don Scott - worked out the basic rule for this extraordinary event: any bird seen or heard during the shower may be counted IF at some time, it is followed by a meteor. Students classified meteors into ten categories ranging from Woo-Woo, Ahhhh, Amazing - four (insert your own number) at one time! Astute observer Eliot Kirschbaum estimated 900 meteors per hour! Nine bird species were seen or heard. Astronomical observations included: International Space Station, Beehive cluster in Cancer, Jupiter with two Galileon moons, Saturn, Orion Nebula (Venus was mysteriously missing!) Note: Near the end of the count Elliot escaped serious injury when he was so overcome with excitement that he toppled out of his reclining chair while watching a Woo-Woo (category one) meteor. Peter Webb claimed to have seen a Painted Bunting, possibly the result of a concussion from an imagined meteor impact to his head. The beauty of the morning was augmented by wit and humor and counterpointed by the sounds of howling dogs and howling National Guardsmen from a nearby camp. When bright skies finally obscured the meteors, the chilled-to-the-bone watchers retreated to a member's nearby warm house where they consumed large quantities of coffee along with bagels, eggs, sausage and more spirited conversation.

2002 MOS Convention Speaker David Sibley Responds to MOS Member—Baltimore Bird Club member Elise Kreiss, was thrilled by a response from David Sibley to her email message of September 27: When a given plumage is not included among the illustrations (e.g. first winter male Chestnut-sided Warbler), could you spare some space to indicate what illustration best approximates that plumage; and even better, what the differences are likely to be? I carry The Sibley Guide to Birds whenever I'm out birding. It is highly valued by the folks I bird with, and just about everyone else! David Sibley replied: Thanks for your note and your suggestion. I have worked on that idea, but never applied it very consistently. I will continue to work on it.

Caroline Chapter Banding Report—Wanda Cole of the Caroline Chapter rewarded members with this report on the Adkins Arboretum's Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO) banding station which opened this year on October 19, 2001. "This is our fourth year banding NSWO at this site. With numerous banding stations now spread out across the N.American continent, information from Ontario and Alberta, the Sierra Nevadas, Dakotas, Maine, Cape May, Duluth, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Cape Charles, and south to Georgia is helping put together a clearer picture of what these cute little furballs do in the fall. We are seeing higher numbers at most stations, more adults, more males, and many stations are capturing birds previously banded elsewhere. This is a new trend over previous years. As of this morning, we have captured 33 saw-whet owls at Adkins with three recaptures from West Virginia. (Note: the total by November 14 was 55.) That is higher than last year's total of 27 owls. And to think we are just starting into our peak period! The birds have been very feisty this year... my hands have many puncture wounds. Believe it or not, we barely flinch anymore when we get impaled. Saturday, Nov. 3rd, we netted 11 owls and didn't get away from the station until 4:00 am. One of the birds we captured was an owl banded in Otter Creek, WV in October 1999. Cool! A new station in Harrisonburg, VA recently caught an owl banded in October in Ontario (500 km north of Toronto). Just before dusk, I was making deck line repairs. I heard a piercing screech and turned in time to watch a sharp-shinned hawk fly into the 6' x 3' section of open net that I was working on. I removed the bird to band it before it got too dark... and was amazed at how calm this species can be. It was a beautiful bird but smelled like a wet dog. Twice I saw a six point buck wandering around the meadow- stay away from our net lane! And I heard a coyote howl around midnight last night. Besides the joy of working with these precious little creatures, there is no greater pleasure than to be outside at night...viewing the milky way, enjoying the brilliant full moon, watching the ground fog swirl about, and listening to the night sounds. To little eyes in the night woods!"

Cecil Chapter Member Soars with Herons—Pat Valdata has been flying sailplanes at the Harford County Airport, just across the Susquehanna River from Port Deposit. In that time Pat has flown alongside on near lots of soaring birds: Red-tailed Hawks, Ospreys, even Bald Eagles, not to mention swallows and monarch butterflies. Sailplane pilots and raptors

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CHAPTER CHATTER

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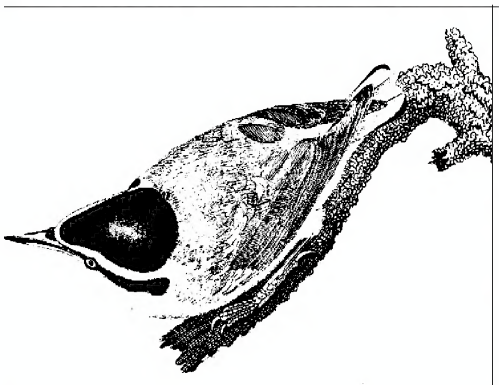
take advantage of the same conditions, usually soaring in thermals, which are columns or bubbles of heated, rising air. In Maryland thermals usually break loose from the ground in late morning, are strongest during the midday hours, and then weaken as the sun gets lower in the sky. Generally, thermal soaring is best on the day following a cold front, when unstable air behind the front heats unevenly. Patches of plowed ground, highways, shopping mall roofs and parking lots, heat up more quickly than fields full of crops or woodlots. The warm ground heats the air above it and the warmed air rises, just like bubbles in a pot of simmering water. Circling in these areas of rising air, a sailplane can get to four or five thousand feet above ground; on a great day, seven or eight thousand feet. October 7 was a great day. Pat and Jeff Matthews found three large birds ahead of their sailplane in a thermal. At first they thought the birds were Broad Wing Hawks, but then they realized they were Great Blue Herons. It's always a thrill but not a surprise to soar in the company of hawks, ospreys, and bald eagles. But a gaggle of herons that high was an experience for the log books. Pat advises contacting the Atlantic Soaring Club for information about soaring on any fair-weather weekend. They can be reached at 410-734-9170 on weekends or email Pat at pvaldata@zoominternet.net for details.

News from the Caroline Chapter—L.T. Short of the Caroline Chapter went to Yellowstone National Park to take some wildlife photos. He was rewarded for his efforts by getting some pictures of the biggest elk he ever saw . He also took photos of a White-Crowned Sparrow, just to keep things in perspective. Steve Westre has been fighting squirrels at his bird feeders. He has trapped and transported eighteen across the river so far this year. Steve complains that they show no respect for him. Danny Poet had Pine Siskins at his bird feeders on November 10 through November 12. He has also hosted male and female Purple Finch and a regular visitor to the birdbath as well as the feeder, a Red-breasted Nuthatch.



2002 MOS Scholarship Program

by Jean Fry

A reminder: the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is still accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend summer ecology and ornithology workshops which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Each grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, and natural history. The value of each scholarship is for $600 to $900. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient.

Applications for the 2002 workshops are due by January 31, 2002. Please submit applications and direct questions to Jean Fry, Chairperson of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. Phone: 410-452-8539 E-mail: ffryjl@aol.com.

John Wortman Memorial Scholarship

by Jean Fry

A new scholarship has been established in memory of Mr. John Wortman, who had been a member of the Harford County Bird Club since 1969. John passed away on March 5, 2001 after a three-year struggle with pancreatic cancer. He was 75.

Born in Union, Oregon on September 12, 1925, Mr. Wortman served in the Army Air Force in England during World War II, flying 21 missions over Germany in B-17 Flying Fortresses. He later graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in mathematics. He was employed by the Army Ballistics Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground as a mathematician from 1953 until his retirement in 1991.

Mr. Wortman was a member and frequent soloist with the Havre de Grace United Methodist Church choir for 47 years.

John enjoyed gardening, crossword puzzles, and games. He was an active member of the Harford County Bird Club for over 30 years, regularly attending meetings and leading field trips. Always willing to share his knowledge of birds, he had a kind and gentle manner as well as a wry sense of humor. A considerable amount of his time following retirement was spent as a volunteer at Harford Glen Environmental Education Center in Bel Air giving bird banding demonstrations and instructing fifth graders in bird identification and nature studies. Susquehanna State Park was one of his favorite birdwatching spots, and he delighted everyone with his knowledge of the wildflowers as well as birds in that area. He also volunteered for the Salvation Army and Grace Place. In 1998 he was named Salvation Army Volunteer of the year.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lorna, of Havre de Grace; two sons Warren, of Columbia, and Odin, of Elkridge; one daughter, Adel, of Laurel; and five grandchildren, Paul, Cara, Brian, Benjamin, and Laura. Memorial services were held at the Havre de Grace United Methodist Church.

Lorna Wortman has made the decision to establish a Maryland Ornithological Society Scholarship to an Audubon camp in honor of John's life and his love for birds. It is a most appropriate way to perpetuate his memory and to carry on his interest in the natural world. Donations are being forwarded to the state scholarship fund by Lorna and family members, as well as the Harford County Bird Club which also collected memorial contributions. The first scholarship in John's name will be awarded in the summer of 2003. The Maryland Ornithological Society and the scholarship committee are extremely grateful to the Wortman family and the Harford Bird Club for their generosity.

C&O Canal Mid-Winter Bird Survey

by Mike Milton

The 4th annual Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Mid-Winter Bird Survey will be Saturday, January 26, 2002. The format will be as in previous years; tally of species and numbers on a mile-by-mile basis using the mileposts along the towpath.

This is a DC Audubon event, realized over its 184.5 mile length by a multi-regional and multi-organizational effort. The coordinators are Mike Milton, phone 202-543-6673, email mikemilton@attglobal.net, and Peter Vankevich who founded the count, 202-547-4523, pvank@cais.net. A review of the 2001 count is at http://www.dcaudubon.org/articles.htm#survey.

We will be individually emailing prior participants and interested persons, but please don't wait to contact Mike or Peter and let us know if you are available on Jan. 26th, and if you want to cover the same, or more, or fewer, or other mile-sectors. As with Christmas counts, participants not sure of their ID abilities are very welcome, and will be teamed up with experienced birders.

We hope this will again be an enjoyable event, and that the weather won't be as problematic as in 1999-2000-2001.

Nominations for State MOS Offices, 2002-2003

by David Harvey

The MOS Nominations Committee is pleased to submit to the membership for their consideration the Committee's nominations for State MOS Officers. These offices will be voted on by the membership at the 2002 MOS Annual Meeting at Wisp, in Garrett County. It should be noted that nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Individuals nominated from the floor must be willing to accept that nomination.

President: Paul Zucker
Vice-President: Janet Millenson
Secretary: Janet Shields
Treasurer: Shiras Guion

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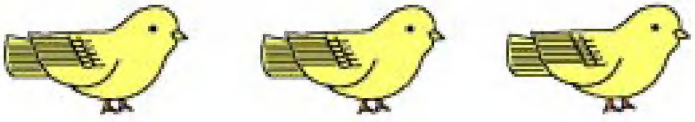

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The copy deadline for the Mar/Apr issue of the Yellowthroat is January 25 for chapter activities and February 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for March and April to:

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Please send all other submissions to the editor:

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